“Make it Bloom” for Wildlife in Your Community:

Native Pollinator Wildflower Mixture

For a complete list of the seeds that are included in your native pollinator wildflower mixture, click on **this link**.

Nature and Technology

Utilize the following apps to dig in deeper with your students!
Accessible to Spanish speakers by having the phone on the Spanish setting.

- **Seek by iNaturalist:** *“Use the power of image recognition technology to identify the plants and animals all around you.”*
  - Take pictures of an unidentified animal or plant.
  - Select **View Species** to learn more about your findings.
  - Select **Menu: Achievement**s to see your badge collection grow or **My Observations** to see all that you have.

- **iNaturalist:** *“A platform where you can record, share, and discuss your observations of nature. You can also contribute to biodiversity science, join projects, and learn from other naturalists.”*
  - Browse through local wildlife observations under **Explore**, and use **Observe** to add to this list.
  - *“Projects let you pool your observations with other people on iNaturalist. Whether you're starting a citizen science effort or keeping tabs on the birds in your neighborhood, Projects are the way to go.”*
    - Start a Project on the website under **Community**, and contribute observations on the app under **Projects**

“Make it Bloom” for Wildlife in Your Community:

Seed-Balls

Seed balls are a great method to promote the germination and growth of native plants for our local wildlife.

To make your own seed balls:

- Start by mixing together soil, red or white clay powder, and compost together in a 4:2:1 ratio.
- Mix the dry ingredients while slowly adding water. The mixture should feel like cookie dough.
- Roll the mixture into half-inch diameter balls.
- With your thumb, gently press on each ball to flatten it a bit. Place 1 or 2 seeds in the middle of each clump.
- Re-roll the balls, making sure the seeds are deep at the center.
- Allow the seed balls to dry in a well-ventilated area, and they are ready to be used!

Sow seed balls with annual seeds in the spring, and those with perennial seeds in the fall for stratification.

“Make it Bloom” for Wildlife in Your Community:

How Your Seed-Balls Will Help

Thank you for participating in grassland conservation! These seed-balls will be used at Daniels Park, where the deep roots of the native grasses planted will prevent soil erosion and benefit all organisms in the ecosystem- from the countless insects to the 2000-pound bison!

Bison Conservation

In the mid-1800s, there were an estimated 30 - 60 million bison roaming around North America. By the end of the century, right around the time Denver Zoo was founded, there were fewer than 1,000. As a keystone species, bison play a vastly important role in the health and ecology of our local grassland ecosystems. A few of the ways in which bison benefit their surroundings are:

- They are adapted to continue grazing in the winter snow, which allows other species to follow in their steps.
- They manage populations of native foliage, including shortening grass, which then allows prairie dogs to have a better view of potential predators.
- Their wallowing behavior leads to indentations that collect rainwater, forming small ponds.

Denver Zoo began work on bison conservation more than 100 years ago. The Zoo obtained bison from Yellowstone in the early 1900s, bred and cared for them, and reintroduced the species to Genesee Park in 1914. The bison you see today along I-70 at Genesee Park and at Daniels Park are descendants of those animals!

Not only do bison play an important ecological role, but also a cultural one.

For 50 years, Denver Mountain Parks had been auctioning excess bison calves at Genesee and Daniels Parks to manage the herds. In 2022, Denver Zoo Field Conservation staff collaborated with Denver Mountain Parks and began conversations with Denver City officials about donating excess bison to Native tribes rather than auctioning them off. The idea was immediately approved and now buffalo are returned to Native tribes as reparations. Once again, we thank you for contributing to our conservation efforts!

“Make it Bloom” for Wildlife in Your Community:

Resources for Gardening with Native Plants in Colorado

Link	Description	Resource Type
USDA Plant Database	Use the USDA database to determine the native range for plants and seeds that you consider purchasing.	Search Tool
Native Plants - CSU	Access guides specific to region for native plants.	Website
Creating a Pollinator Habitat - CSU	How to create a pollinator habitat.	Info Sheet
Pollinator-Friendly Native Plant Lists	Access guides specific to regions for pollinator-friendly native plants.	Website
Pollinator Conservation Resource Center	Access guides and resources for pollinator conservation by region.	Website
Colorado Bureau of Land Management	Information about the Bureau of Land Management’s plan for Native Plants and the contact information for the State Botanist.	Website
Planting Guides	Access pollinator friendly planting guides by ecoregion.	Website